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CEDAW

Convention on the Elimination
of all Forms of Discrimination
Against Women

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CEDAW/C/L.7
22 January 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN
Ninth session
New York, 22 January-2 February 1990
Agenda item 4

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Draft report

Rapporteur: Ms. Rose Ukeje (Nigeria)

INTRODUCTION

A. States parties to the Convention

1. On 2 February 1990, the closing date of the ninth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, there were 100 States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which was adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979 and opened for signature, ratification and accession in New York on 1 March 1980. In accordance with article 27, the Convention entered into force on 3 September 1981.

2. A list of States parties to the Convention is contained in annex I to the present report.

B. Session of the Committee

3. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women held its ninth session from 22 January to 2 February 1990 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Committee held 19 (151st to 170th) meetings.

4. The ninth session of the Committee was opened by the Chairperson of the Committee elected at the eighth session, Ms. Elizabeth Evatt (Australia), who welcomed the members.

5. In her welcoming address, the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna said that, at a time of radical changes in many countries, the Convention and its implementation was one of the few really bright spots in what was often a picture of loss of momentum for the advancement of women. Although there were grounds for celebrating the Convention's tenth anniversary, there was no time to be complacent. It was the Committee's work that would determine the success of the Convention and strengthen national efforts.

6. Reminding the Committee members of the fact that the budget for 1990-1991 had been set on the basis of no real growth and mentioning the cut of Professional staff in the Division for the Advancement of Women, she reported on what had been done within the Division to assist the Committee in its work especially in the field of policy research, such as violence against women and on traditional practices and dissemination of statistical information. She stressed the fact that servicing of CEDAW must remain the responsibility of the Division for the Advancement of Women because the Convention, unlike other human rights instruments, had an organic relationship with institutions dealing with women's issues and was in reciprocal connection with the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.

7. While mentioning the Secretariat resources brought from Vienna to New York for the session, she stressed that that minimal level of staff was far below what the Division would have been able to make available in Vienna, in addition to the lack of reference material which was collected in Vienna but could not be transmitted to New York. She also stressed that the working procedures of the Committee might be examined in order to make the Committee work more efficiently since the ultimate work had to be done by the Committee itself. It might be useful if the Committee, as has been the practice of the Commission on the Status of Women, made known to the Secretariat in advance the general issues it would like to address so that the Secretariat could provide related information in the inter-sessional periods.

8. The Director-General reported on several events that have taken place and will take place during 1990 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention and paid a tribute to the tireless work of non-governmental organizations. She also reminded the Committee of the forthcoming tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention in 1991 and invited the Committee to think of ways to use that date to focus further attention to the Convention. The improvement of the lot of women who have not yet been touched by the Convention should underlie the joint work of the Committee at the present session.

9. The Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women noted that four additional countries had become States parties to the Convention and that there were now 100. She noted events that marked the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention which, according to a statement made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, provided an agenda for action by countries "to guarantee rights for women".

10. She mentioned particularly the new sales publication entitled The Work of CEDAW, which was launched at Vienna on 18 December, whose goal was to make the Committee's work more visible and accessible to scholars, legal specialists and the public who already knew about CEDAW and the United Nations work to contribute to the elimination of discrimination against women. For the mass media, the non-governmental organizations and the public at large, the Department of Public Information of the United Nations launched an information kit on the Convention, which provided information on the Convention in very simple language.

11. She also noted a seminar in Tashkent in September 1990 and another regional seminar in October 1990 for members of the South Pacific Forum, most of whom were not yet States parties. She also reported briefly on the regional training seminar on the Convention in Guatemala in October 1989, which was organized jointly by the Government and the United Nations for the Spanish-speaking countries of the region.

C. Membership and attendance

12. At the commencement of the session, 21 members of the Committee were present. Ms. Carlota Bustelo Garcia del Real arrived on .....
Ms. Grethe Fenger-Moeller arrived on ..... The membership of the Committee is given in annex III to the present report.

D. Agenda

13. At its 151st meeting, the Committee adopted the items listed on the provisional agenda submitted by the Secretary-General (CEDAW/C/19) as the agenda of its ninth session. The agenda as adopted was as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

   Reporting obligations by States parties under United Nations instruments on human rights.

2. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention.

3. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention.

4. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its ninth session.

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New York, 22 January-2 February 1990
Agenda item 4

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Rapporteur: Ms. Rose UKEJE (Nigeria)

Addendum

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The Committee considered its organization of work at its 151st to ... meetings, on .... In connection with this item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Organization of work (CEDAW/C/CRP.7), prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee;

(b) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its eighth session (Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/44/38));

(c) Draft consolidated guidelines for the initial part of States parties' reports (CEDAW/C/CRP.9);

(d) General guidelines and recommendations adopted by the Committee regarding the form and content of periodic reports (CEDAW/Background Paper/L.18);

(e) Resolution 33/3 of the Commission on the Status of Women;

(f) Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/44;

(g) General Assembly resolution 44/73.

A. Working groups

2. At its 151st meeting, on 22 January 1990, the Committee agreed on the composition of its two standing working groups: Working Group I to consider and suggest ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee and Working Group II to consider ways and means of implementing article 21 of the Convention.

3. Working Group I was composed of:

Ms. Desirée Bernard (Co-ordinator),
Ms. Ryoko Akamatsu,
Ms. Elizabeth Evatt,
Ms. Norma Forde,
Ms. Aida González Martínez,
Ms. Zagorka Ilic,
Ms. Guan Minqian,
Ms. Mervat Tallawy,
Ms. Rose Ukeje.

4. Working Group II was composed of:

Ms. Hanna B. Schoepp-Schilling (Co-ordinator),
Ms. Ana Maria Alfonsin de Fasan,
Ms. Ivanka Corti,
Ms. Hadja Assa Diallo Soumare,
Ms. Ruth Escobar,
Ms. Grethe Fenger-Moeller,
Ms. Chryssanthi Laiou-Antoniou,
Ms. Elvira Novikova,
Ms. Edith Oeser,
Ms. Lily Pilataxi de Arenas,
Ms. Pudjiwati Sajogyo,
Ms. Kongit Sinegiorgis,
Ms. Kissem Walla-Tchangai.

5. As the Committee had agreed at its sixth session, the membership of the working groups was kept flexible and open-ended so that other members could attend them.

6. Working Group I was entrusted with the consideration of the following items:

(a) Consideration and recommendation concerning the consolidated guidelines for the initial part of States parties' reports and proposals for simplifying general guidelines for the preparation of reports, taking into account general recommendation No. 2 made at the Committee's sixth session, in 1987;

(b) A discussion as to which initial and which second periodic reports should be considered by the Committee at its tenth session;

(c) Updating the report of the Committee on the achievements of, and obstacles encountered by, States parties in implementing the Convention, originally prepared for the Nairobi Conference (A/CONF.116/13);

(d) Procedural matters, including also the dates for the next session of the Committee.

7. At its 154th meeting, held on 23 January 1990, the Chairman of the pre-session working group, Ms. Mervat Tallawy, introduced the report of the pre-session working group that had met from 17 to 19 January 1990 (CEDAW/C/CRP.12). She said that the report was guided by the existing guidelines for second periodic reports, the examination of the initial and second periodic reports of the countries concerned, and the desire to maintain a certain uniformity as to the number of questions to be asked of each country. The pre-sessional preparatory work had proved to be a very positive experience that should be repeated at the next session. It might, however, be necessary to extend the pre-session preparatory work by one or two days, considering the larger number of second periodic reports that would be considered by the Committee at its tenth session.

8. At its 156th meeting, held on 24 January 1990, the Committee agreed on the list of issues to be raised with the States parties, as well as the second periodic reports to be considered at the current session.

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DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Rapporteur: Ms. Rose UKEJE (Nigeria)

Addendum

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER ARTICLE 18 OF THE CONVENTION

A. Introduction

1. The Committee considered item 2 of its agenda at its 151st to ... meetings, held from 22 January to ... February 1990 (CEDAW/C/SR.151-...).

2. The Committee had before it for its consideration seven initial reports submitted by the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, Malawi, Peru, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United Republic of Tanzania and five second periodic reports submitted by the Governments of Canada, Egypt, Mexico, Mongolia and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

B. Consideration of reports

1. Initial reports

Federal Republic of Germany

3. The Committee considered the initial report of the Federal Republic of Germany (CEDAW/C/5/Add.59 and Corr.1) at its 152nd and ... meetings, on 22 and 25 January 1990 (CEDAW/C/SR.152 and ...).

4. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, in introducing the report, noted that the composition of its delegation to the Committee with a Federal Minister, two Ministers of State and officials from Federal and provincial ministries indicated the importance attached to the subject by the Government. She noted that the Convention in its tenth year had been given considerable publicity. The report had originally been prepared in 1988, but the availability of additional information, particularly from the most recent census, had led the Government to prepare an addendum which, unfortunately, arrived too late to be distributed in all languages.

5. The current situation of women was that equality was generally recognized de jure but that social reality continued to lead to de facto discrimination. Equality was guaranteed by article 3, paragraph 2, of the Federal Constitution, a clause that had been inserted in 1949 through pressure by women members of the constitutional convention. It was a directly enforceable right binding on all branches of government. Civil law had gradually been brought into line with that provision, as described in annex II of the addendum.

6. The de facto situation was not as good, with shortcomings most prevalent in public and professional life and in education, as the statistics found in annex I of the addendum demonstrate. Women were underrepresented in politics and government at all levels, even though they were in the majority of voters. The same was true in business enterprises, with less than 1 per cent of company directors being women. In universities, especially in the sciences, although women were well-represented among new students, they were much less among teachers and even less among professors and holders of endowed chairs.

7. Women constituted a major part of the workforce, comprising 39 per cent of gainfully employed persons and showing an increase especially in the 20-50 year age group. There had been a shift among professional sectors towards the services and there was widespread resort to part-time work by women (one third of working women were part-time). Structurally women were in the lower pay levels, worked fewer hours, did less well-paying shift work and rendered fewer years of service.

8. In education, women were attaining parity but positive actions to encourage women to take up non-traditional occasional training had not yet broken down concentration of women in effectively sex-segregated fields. As a result, women had fewer options than men.

9. The reasons for the de facto inequality rested in the prevalence of traditional task allocations, especially in rural areas and among older citizens. Women's working conditions impeded their full participation in political life.

10. To improve the situation a network of institutions had been organized to help establish equality at all political levels: the Ministry of Youth, Family Affairs and Health at the federal level, commissioners in all Laender governments, and a great number of offices in local governments.

11. The Government had taken a number of steps to implement the provisions of the Convention. There had been a broader interpretation of the concept of discrimination to include indirect discrimination. A number of special measures, as called for in article 4, had been implemented. Guidelines had been developed for the public sector, as well as the private sector. In politics, a number of political parties had established quotas or targets to increase the percentage of women. Efforts had been made to reduce stereotypes and sex discrimination in textbooks and, through voluntary efforts, measures were being taken to reduce stereotyping in advertising. The federal parliament had been dealing with trafficking in women and efforts were being made to deal with the problems of violence against women, the most serious form of discrimination, through the enactment of laws and the provision of shelter and counselling centres. Women were being encouraged by information campaigns to study in non-traditional schools and co-education approaches were being reviewed to ensure that they did not discriminate. Studies relating to matters concerning women were being encouraged and were held to be of equivalent academic standard as research on other important issues.

12. A particular effort was being made to help women and men reconcile their needs for both family and career, an aspiration expressed by 80 per cent of young women. That was being done through a combination of child-raising allowances that allowed women to leave the workforce temporarily, child care facilities, placing part-time and full-time work on an equal footing and reintegration into the workforce.

13. In general comments, members of the Committee noted that the Federal Republic had made a single reservation on the Convention and questioned why and whether it was likely to be withdrawn. The lateness of the additional information was noted and although some found it very useful, others indicated that had it been more timely the work of the Committee would have been aided, since the addendum provided much missing information. The frankness of the report was also noted. An absence of information about women's organizations and movements was noted and information on their structure and relationship with other institutions such as parties and labour unions requested.

14. On article 2, questions were raised about the question of abortion, which was considered illegal, and an illustration from legal practice was requested. An indication of which authorities were responsible for imposing sanctions for non-compliance with the Convention was requested, both at the federal and lower levels. The extent to which foreign women workers, especially from Turkey, were covered by provisions was asked. Finally, if, as the report stated, the basic law did not apply to "private" acts of discrimination, the question how they were handled was asked.

15. In relation to article 3, further information on the functioning of the decentralized implementation structure was requested, including the extent to which women participated in its workings and the kinds of demands or requests made on the machinery by women.

16. Several experts noted the guidelines for private companies that had been developed relative to article 4 and requested information on its impact. The question was raised of whether the special measures had led to resentment, as well as whether special measures were being taken to increase the number of women at decision-making levels in the light of the current low proportion. Further information on the special efforts to upgrade part-time work was requested.

17. More detail on the results of efforts to overcome stereotypes, in the context of article 5, was requested, including questions of shared responsibility for child-raising, the number of fathers taking child-raising leave, sex education in the schools and the elimination of stereotyping in advertising, as well as more generally in the mass media and on programmes to fund shelters for battered women.

18. Regarding article 6, the extent of prostitution was requested together with the results of studies on the subject and of programmes for prostitutes. Information on programmes to combat AIDS among women was requested.

19. In terms of article 7, more information was requested about the working of the national machinery, including its composition, budget and linkage with other bodies both at the federal and the provincial level, including the parliament, the Federal Ministry, trade unions and political parties. The role of the women's section of the ministry within the overall programme of the ministry needed elaboration. It was noted that the information provided did not give a full picture of the extent of women's political participation; and it was asked whether there were any special programmes to increase the number of women, either by the parties or by the Government. Information on the extent to which women held management posts in the trade unions and on the extent to which women held posts in the judiciary was requested.

20. The criteria for selecting women to participate in international work was requested along with an indication of how many women worked for the United Nations system and specific measures taken to increase the participation of women in national delegations to international meetings, as called for in article 8.

21. With reference to article 9, the length of time necessary to revise the nationality law was requested together with a confirmation that women had the same right as men to confer nationality on a foreign spouse.

22. On education, as per article 10, the question was raised whether there was a special campaign to encourage women to benefit from scholarships, follow unconventional careers as well as the percentage of illiterate women as compared to men.

23. In the context of article 11, noting that the labour court had assessed damages for rejection from jobs because of discrimination, the frequency of those rejections was queried. Further information on the process whereby national labour laws were being revised to conform with those of the European Community and its effect on women was requested, as was whether the opening up of European frontiers required any special efforts for women. Interest was shown in laws on the effort to make part-time work equal in legal terms to full-time. It was noted that the

increase in total number of women employed had not been great and further explanation of that was requested, as well as reasons why women constituted a larger proportion of both those employed and those unemployed. It was noted that under the law some 20 occupations were not open to women by statute and the list of those occupations and the statutory basis for denying women access to them were requested. Further information on the outcome of efforts to revise industrial safety laws was requested including an indication of its likely effect on women's employment. The question of the meaning of "light work" in practice and in monetary terms was made. Noting that the Federal Republic of Germany had ratified ILO Convention No. 100 in 1956, the delay in achieving equal pay between the sexes was noted. Similarly, information on how the parental leave system worked and on the prospect of returning to work with rights was requested. Questions were raised about working conditions of foreign women workers as well as their rights.

24. In terms of health, as per article 12, the incidence of industrial accidents and industry-related diseases among women was requested, as well as information on programmes to make people aware of AIDS, to deal with drug addiction and to deal with the health needs of migrant women.

25. On article 15, a question was raised concerning the policy towards housewives' freedom of movement and whether a provision for special payment of household work existed.

26. Regarding article 16, the issue of policies towards problems of elderly women, especially those divorced late in life, was raised and information about the question of provision of pensions and other benefits as part of a dissolution of marriage was requested. The status of responsibility for an out-of-wedlock child and single-parent families generally in terms of the law was requested. Noting that there were three régimes regarding property rights, a question about which régime was more frequently selected was raised. Finally, since the family name in a marriage could either be that of the woman or the man, the frequency of choosing the wife's name was requested.

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Addendum

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES
UNDER ARTICLE 18 OF THE CONVENTION

B. Consideration of reports

1. Initial reports

United Republic of Tanzania

1. The Committee considered the initial report of the United Republic of Tanzania (CEDAW/C/5/Add.57 and Amend. 1) at its 153rd, 154th and .... meetings on 23 and 25 January 1990 (CEDAW/C/SR.153, 154 and .....).

2. Introducing the report, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania said that it was the Government's policy to provide adequate protection to the rights of women in the society. However, sex discrimination still existed in both the public and private sectors as a consequence of socio-economic factors. She highlighted some of the issues contained in the additional report, which had recently been submitted, stating that the ratification of the Convention had strengthened and reactivated the country's effort in the implementation of the elimination of discrimination against women. The party and the Government had tried to give equality to women and resorted to many positive measures to achieve that goal.

3. She said that women had always been encouraged to be on the forefront in the political arena. She provided statistical data on education and said that in spite of statements made on education by the party and the Government to benefit women, there was a discrepancy between those statements and actual benefits realized by women due to societal attitudes, traditional sexual division of labour and socio-economic changes.

4. She stated that there was a shortage of health services to all women. The maternal mortality rate was 185 per 100,000 deliveries, that employed pregnant women were entitled to 84 days of paid maternity leave and 60 per cent of pregnant women had access to free medical care. However, the majority of women in rural communities could not rest shortly before and after delivery because they had to provide food for the family. In spite of equal rules governing the employment of women and men, in practice, women were still being discriminated against as a result of factors related to family conditions and responsibilities and socio-economic factors.

5. In the United Republic of Tanzania, rural women were the backbone of the economy since agriculture was the main productive activity of the country. Their working conditions were very hard and, consequently, a few measures had been developed with gender sensitivity. Realizing the historic disadvantages of women in politics, the party and the Government had introduced a quota system for women at different levels of decision-making on political organs.

6. Although the report had regrettably been submitted at a date too late to permit full consideration, members of the Committee expressed appreciation for the oral presentation, for the critical character of, and the substantial information provided by the additional report.

7. That fact as well as the calibre and size of the delegation pointed to the degree of commitment shown by the Government to the advancement of women. The existence of national machinery was noted. Also, while noting that the Government had ratified the Convention without reservations, some members asked how it was possible not to enter a reservation if customary laws still existed which were in contradiction to the stipulations of the Convention. It was also asked whether the Government had made a review of existing customary laws and what the status of women had been before the ratification of the Convention. The attention paid by the Government to priority areas such as health and education was commended.

8. The quota system for women in Parliament was highly appreciated. It was asked what measures the political parties and the Government were taking to advance the status of women and what the main obstacles to the equality of women were. It was asked whether or not the Convention could be invoked before the courts. Further information was requested on the sources of financing for the Division of Women and Children, the number of people employed there and the results of its work.

9. On article 2, questions were raised about new laws adopted as a result of the work of the Law Reform Commission. It was asked whether equality existed only in civil law, or also in common law marriages. The question was asked why women were not entitled to maternity leave in some cases and whether plans existed to change

that situation. An indication as to whether the budget for the Fourth Development Programme for Tanzania foresaw a specific provision for the advancement of women was sought, as was information on the number of women in public administration and in the judiciary and whether sanctions existed against discriminatory practices. It was asked whether the Government undertook any measures to abolish customary traditions contrary to the advancement of women and whether there were plans to abolish the dowry system.

10. Regarding article 3, more information was requested on institutions dealing with the equality of women, the results of their efforts and their integration into the national development plan. It was asked whether and how women have become aware of their rights, whether records existed on cases of discrimination that were brought before the courts and the attitude of women's organizations regarding the lack of punishment of rapists.

11. Referring to article 4, questions were raised as to whether the Government was planning to take further temporary special measures and positive actions to help rural women to set up co-operatives and to obtain bank loans and economic support, and what type of technology was meant to assist women in work and production.

12. In the context of article 5, questions were asked as to how the Government reconciled the customs and traditions among the ethnic groups to make the policy benefit women, whether measures were taken to change the social attitudes and end discrimination against women and the belief that women were of an inferior value, how the efforts in family education were being co-ordinated and what results had been achieved. It was asked whether any studies had been undertaken about the separation of household tasks and income-earning work between men and women, what the percentage of women was whose task consisted in only taking care of the home and what the reasons were for the higher percentage of women in farming. It was asked how the value of women's work could be assessed in money or in kind.

13. Under article 6 more information was sought on the extent of prostitution and the provisions that existed to eliminate prostitution. It was asked whether prostitution was illegal and how the Government was dealing with the health-related problems of prostitution.

14. Regarding article 7, information was sought as to whether there were other women's movements in the United Republic of Tanzania apart from the Women's Organization "Umoja wa Wanawake Tanzania" (UWT). Questions were raised about its composition and whether its decisions affected governmental and party decisions. The quota system was highly commended; it was asked what measures were being taken to increase the political participation of women and whether women were being encouraged to compete outside the quota system and why the percentage of women in the Central Party of Tanzania had dropped from 14.6 per cent to 5 per cent. Further information was requested on the percentage of women's participation in Parliament, in governmental posts and in the judiciary.

15. With reference to article 9, it was asked whether a Tanzanian woman who had a foreign husband could confer her nationality on her children.

16. On article 10, information was sought on the change in men's school enrolment as a percentage of total enrolment since 1984, on the number of women in the teaching profession, on the percentage of women in universities, on the actions being taken by the Government to encourage women to enrol in secondary and higher education and on the types of occupation undertaken by girls after school enrolment. Experts commented on the high school drop-out rate for girls and it was asked whether studies had been made on the reasons for that phenomenon, whether sex education was foreseen in the school curricula, why pregnant girls were not allowed to re-enter school after delivery and what the percentage of co-educational schools was. The literacy programmes of the Government were commended and data more recent than 1986 on the reduction of the illiteracy rate were requested.

17. In the context of employment, under article 11, questions were raised about measures to resolve the problem of discrimination against women in public and private enterprises and about measures to integrate women into the private sector. It was asked whether women in the private sector received fixed salaries and whether and how rural women workers were protected. Interest was shown concerning the amount of time spent by women on maternity leave, the percentage of women who took maternity leave and the amount of maternity pay. Experts were interested to know whether any other measures had been adopted to control the population question. Questions were asked concerning how women's wages compared to men's wages, whether there had been any changes in the level of women's wages and whether affirmative actions had been undertaken to integrate women in every sector of employment. Information was sought on the results of initiatives undertaken by the Women's Organization UWT with regard to the provision of day-care centres in urban as well as in rural areas and on the percentage of children in such centres. More information was sought on women's co-operatives.

18. Under article 12, several questions referred to the family planning policy of the Government. Information was sought regarding how contraceptives were distributed, whether they were free of charge, what the traditional methods of contraception were, whether women had to obtain permission from their husbands as well as husbands from their wives for undergoing sterilization. Further clarification on the percental usage of oral contraceptives was requested. Experts wanted to know what procedure had to be followed for obtaining a legally permitted abortion. They sought information on the effect of traditional practices on the health of women and asked whether female circumcision was being practised and the reasons for the short life expectancy of women. The percentage of women in health-related professions and the attitude of non-governmental organizations with respect to unmarried women were requested.

19. With reference to article 13, it was asked whether single women had access to bank loans, credit and ownership of land and whether women had a right to inheritance, and if not, whether the Government intended to change the situation.

20. On article 14, questions referred to training possibilities for women in modern agricultural machinery and to the measures undertaken by the Government to implement the Credit Scheme for Productive Activities of Women.

21. With regard to article 15, it was asked whether a family code existed, what its provisions were and whether it was part of statutory law or of customary law.

22. Under the terms of article 16, questions were asked regarding what at the time of divorce happened to goods acquired during the marriage and also what the normal marriageable age was. Experts inquired about the "marriage of reason" and about the age when it was contracted and sought more information on the adoption system. They inquired about the attitude of the society towards divorced women, about the percentage of households headed by women and the results of actions undertaken by women's movements to abolish the dowry system.